

PRACTICAL OBSERVATIONS

ON

CHOLERA.

BY HENRY GEORGE,

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AUTHOR OF "A TREATISE ON THE SMALL POX."

"For I am not so weak and senseless as to seek for reputation, by exploding the opinions of those whom I ought to flatter, if I courted applause. Neither is it to be supposed, that I am so abandoned, as to use my authority to compass the destruction of late posterity after my decease, that so I might murder my fellow-creatures when I am dead as well as during my life ; which I tremble even to mention."—DR. SYDENHAM, p. 69.

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GENERAL REMARKS.

THE great mortality which, within the last few years, this awful disease has occasioned throughout a great portion of the world, renders it a subject of deep, of most important interest. From the length of time which has elapsed since its first appearance as an epidemic, we might reasonably expect that its history, its nature, together with the most appropriate modes of treatment, would have been clearly detailed, described, and pointed out to us, and that scarcely a doubt would remain as to the general course to be pursued in its management. Such, I believe, every in-

genuous mind will confess is not the case. The press has teemed with publications highly creditable to their authors and the profession, not only as compositions, but as works of labour and research; but it is impossible to deny either their deficiency in useful practical information, or the discordance which prevails when the treatment of the disease is the subject of consideration. Is it that we are all too apt to approach the sufferers with preconceived, with fixed opinions as to its treatment, and blindly persevere in modes of practice, without reflecting whether what we denominate our remedies are really such; or whether we are not increasing the dangers of the punishment which the hand of Providence has inflicted? These opinions, too, may be founded on specious reasonings, (serving to fix them more firmly in the mind,) deduced, perhaps, either from the dim and obscure light which morbid anatomy affords

us, or from the changes and even decompositions which chemistry enables us to detect. The congestive state of the large vessels in the cavities of the thorax and abdomen, would lead the morbid anatomist to the use of the lancet and the exhibition of mercurials and purgatives, &c., while the chemist, detecting the deficiency or absence of saline matters in the blood, would exhibit them, in order to their restoration; and yet, I believe, and feel compelled to say, that if we regard the safety of our patient, the slightest modification of such modes of treatment in severe cases is perfectly inadmissible, and in mild ones leaves the constitution, and a disease more or less aggravated by our mismanagement, to contend for the mastery. Dr. Sydenham has justly observed, “The more I converse with men, the more I am convinced how dangerous it is for persons of the acutest understanding, to rack their brains in making a

strict search into any art or science, unless matter-of-fact be constituted the judge and test of truth and falsity." It must not be forgotten, that Sydenham's "matter-of-fact," implies practical observation on the effects which follow our mode of treatment in disease. These are opinions to which "proud science" may disdain to listen; but "that the effects of remedies on a disease form the most important part of its history," was also the opinion of a member of our profession,* recently lost to us, whom we all must remember with feelings of very great respect. They may too, in the eyes of many, savour somewhat of empiricism, but when we look at the machine which is deranged, "so complicate, so wonderful," we cannot feel surprised that the practice of medicine is, and in despair perhaps we must acknowledge that it ever will be, a conjectural science—"an almost untrodden

* Doctor Gooch.

field for intelligent observers." It is not that I either undervalue the labours of the morbid anatomist, or those aids which the collateral branches of medical science may afford us, but I would assuredly make them subservient to our practical knowledge, and lay them by as isolated facts for future use, when they appear to contradict the results of that experience.

It would be more than a twice told tale either to trace, (if I may use the expression,) the locust progress of this disease, from the eastern hemisphere to our own shores, or to describe the dreadful havoc it has made among our fellow-creatures; many curious and inexplicable facts have been stated by those who have followed with ingenuity and labour its wanderings, and many a picture, filled with horrors, has been faithfully drawn by others, who have borne witness to the effects of this awful visitation. But there is one point connected with its

history, on which I feel somewhat disposed to dwell. Has this formidable disease presented any phenomena hitherto unobserved? if not, ought we to pass “unheeded by” the observations and experience of those of our early predecessors, who have justly earned the recompence due to talent and integrity; confidence and respect? That the present epidemic closely resembles that which prevailed two centuries ago in our own island, and about the same time was committing its devastations on the continent of Europe, the evidence of Drs. Sydenham and Etmuller would lead us to believe. The former physician observes, “This disease was more epidemic in the year 1669, than I ever remember to have known it in any other: It is easily known by the following signs: immoderate vomiting, and a discharge of *vitiating humours* by stool, with great difficulty and pain; violent pain and distention of the abdomen

and intestines; heart-burn, thirst, quick pulse, heat and anxiety, and frequently a small and irregular pulse; great nausea, and sometimes colliquative sweats; contraction of the limbs; fainting; coldness of the extremities, and *other like symptoms, which greatly terrify the attendants, and often destroy the patient in twenty-four hours.*” And again, “At the end of the summer, 1676, the cholera morbus *raged epidemically*; and being heightened by the unusual heat of the season, the symptoms of convulsions that accompanied it were more violent and continued longer than ever I observed before; for they did not only seize the belly as they wont, but now all the muscles of the body, and the arms and the legs were especially seized with dreadful convulsions; so that the sick would sometimes leap out of the bed, endeavouring, by stretching his body every way, to suppress the violence of them. But though this

disease did not require any new method of cure, yet stronger anodynes and oftener repeated than were usual, were plainly indicated."

The latter describes the disease in the following words :—" A cholera is a disease in which the vicious humours are impetuously thrown out, both upwards and downwards, with a violent pain in the stomach and belly, distension of the hypochondria, heart-burnings, thirst, *perplexity of the breast*, a swift and sometimes small pulse, frequent swoonings, unquietness, tossing, a coldness in the outer parts, cold sweats, especially upon the forehead, prostration of strength, and at last, convulsions and hiccoughs."

I cannot help believing, that there are many who will acknowledge, if there be any difference in the characters of the present and former epidemics,* it can only re-

* Its very ancient and expressive French appellation, "trousse galant," not only bespeaks a most formidable

late to their malignancy, or in other words, to those complex symptoms which appear to defy the explanations of the pathologist or the remedies of the practitioner, that in this aggravation of symptoms, alone consists the difference. There may be various shades of such a malady, but I cannot suppose that there exist varieties; from one extremity of the scale to the other, I believe that the disease bears the same stamp and character; its features presenting every modification of exhaustion of the vital powers, of convulsion, and of changes in the abdominal secretions; leading me to adopt the opinion of Dr. Cullen, that we err in endeavouring “to constitute a genus under the title of cholera.”

In a practical point of view, this is an important question; decided in the affirmative, it would determine, that the dis- and rapid disease, but appears to mark the frame of society at that period.

ease in all its various shades of difference, can only admit of modifications of the same plan of treatment ; and this opinion, held almost from time immemorial by physicians, I believe our experience will ultimately confirm.

ON THE TREATMENT OF THE DISEASE.

IN the treatment of this disease, all the ancient physicians appear to have placed their reliance on the use of diluents, and in the exhibition of opiate and tonic medicines ; there are few of them who do not insist upon the danger which attends the administration even of the slightest laxative, and few of them whose only aim in its treatment, is not to quiet the irritation existing in the system, and to sustain the vital powers, leaving it to nature to equalize the circulation, and to establish the restoration of the animal functions.

Our countryman, Dr. Sydenham, ob-

serves, “ Much consideration and experience have taught me, that to endeavour on the one hand to expel the sharp humours which feed this disease by purgatives, would be like attempting to extinguish fire with oil, as the most lenient cathartics would increase the disturbance and raise new tumults.”

Etmuller, a German physician, flourishing about the same time, observes, “ As touching the cure, alexipharmical medicines are absolutely necessary. If it proceed from corruptible and fermenting things taken inwardly, such as summer fruits, &c., we must not be over forward in stopping it, especially if such things be voided, as ought to be so, *far less is it allowable to give purgatives, for they increase the tumult.*” In speaking of the occasional causes of the disease, he refers to “ the assumption of sharp caustic medicines, such as antimony, arsenic, mercury,” &c. I appeal to these au-

thorities as being the evidence of men possessing acute and observant minds, trusting to experience alone for their opinions, and making their theories entirely subservient to their practical knowledge.

It is true, that amidst a mass of useful information which the works of these authors contain, you occasionally meet with opinions and rules of practice so utterly absurd, as might, in some degree, justify our refusal to appeal to them as authorities. But investigating disease, as they were doing, by the test of remedies, such errors they would be most likely to fall into; and they scarcely depreciate the many valuable facts which such a course of study enabled them to accumulate. We could hardly imagine that Etmuller, who so accurately describes this and also other diseases, and, as it appears to me, is in general so judicious in his practice, should, when treating of epilepsy, indite the following passage. “ In

the animal province the specifics are, the spirit, oil, and volatil salt of human blood, taken from a beheaded criminal; the skull of one that dies a violent death may be given in powder from a scruple to a dram, it yields a spirit and volatil salt of wonderful use, and its oil, when rectified and applied to the crown of the head, prevents the epileptic fit; the human brain and bones of men are likewise much esteemed."

Nor is Dr. Sydenham altogether free from this imputation. In his "Treatise on Hysterick Diseases," he observes, "But to return to the business in hand, this is the general way of cure for this disease, which is applied to the original cause, viz. — the weak constitution of the blood, and is to be used only when the fit is off; therefore as often as the fit invades, joined with any one of the above-mentioned symptoms of the disease, be such or so great a one that it will not bear a truce till it may be cured

by medicine that strengthen the blood and spirits, we must presently use hysteric medicines, which by their strong and noisome smell, recall the exorbitant and deserting spirits to their proper stations. And, indeed, whatever stinks is proper for this intention, whether it is naturally ill-scented or made so by art ; and, unless I am deceived, spirits of hartshorn, of human blood, of urine, and of bones, and the like, take their chief virtues from the force of the fire in their preparation,” &c.

Though we may shudder, it is scarcely possible to refrain from smiling at the bare mention of such specifics, but it surely must not be in contempt; for the same spirit of anxious inquiry, though much more chastened, led Dr. Armstrong to observe, “ Our knowledge of popular medicine is exceedingly limited, but if it were extended through different classes and countries, I am fully persuaded, that many highly

valuable remedies would be found, which have the sanction of long experience."

The opinions of these physicians in regard to the treatment of cholera, are so consonant with those which my own experience has led me to adopt, that I cannot but regard with suspicion, any theory of treatment originating in the opinions, that the disease commences in some particular tissue, or some vascular determination to, or congestion of, any particular organ ; that the mucous membranes of the abdominal viscera, and perhaps the circulation of the portal system in particular, are deeply implicated in producing the phenomena attendant on this disease, may be admitted. But these two isolated facts do not appear to me to be of sufficient consequence to lead to any positive mode of treatment, when our experience is in direct opposition to those practical conclusions which are alone deducible from them.

I do not pretend to form a theory of the disease, or to refer to any particular organ as being primarily affected ; but to this fact I would bear the most uncompromising testimony, that if you can controul the irritability of the stomach, you keep in subjection, and even subdue, the most formidable symptoms of the disease ; the purging gradually ceases, the stage of collapse passes away, and though excitement generally follows, it is that of exhaustion, and quickly yields, even when accompanied by local affections, to generous nourishment and the use either of stimulant or tonic combined with opiate medicines. I have often witnessed a patient recovered from a frightful state of collapse, complaining of violent pain in the head, the skin being hot, the face flushed, the secretion of urine being scanty, the pulse ranging to 90 or upwards, and yet in the course of a few hours, the powers of the stomach so far restored by the use of stimulants, as to be capable even of enjoying food, and convalescence has been rapid.

There is no medicine with which I am acquainted, so capable of controlling this irritability of the stomach, as the liquor potassæ given in considerable doses ; I have generally administered it in the following form.

R Liq. potass ʒj. ; Conf. Opiat. ʒss. ; Tinct. Card. c.
 34 ʒij. ; Aq. puræ ʒiss. suf. Mist. cap. dim. stat. et
 post horam unam repet.

And where the irritability of the stomach has been so excessive as not to bear even that quantity of liquid, I have usually given a tea-spoonful of the mixture every four or five minutes, until the urgent symptoms were abated ; nor has such an effect ever failed to follow its diligent use, for it was reflection on the only fatal case of cholera which has occurred in my own practice* that induced me to experiment with the

* There was (independent of the case alluded to) an infant whom I attended and rescued by its use, from a state which appeared to threaten its immediate dissolution. A physician was consulted, and the opinion given, (in which I cordially agreed,) was, “ that there was nothing but debility to contend with anticipating recovery ;” but

medicine ; but I do assert that I feel more anxious to support the principle of treatment than to insist on the exclusive employment of the remedy, useful as I have found it ; for where I could not obtain the liq. potass, I have administered, even in very distressing cases, a table-spoonful of burnt brandy every few minutes with the happiest effect.

After the stage of collapse has passed away, a train of formidable symptoms, as is well known, make their appearance. Such as an accelerated pulse, a hot skin, thirst, foul tongue, paucity of urine, local congestions, or, at all events, local *pains*, &c. ; to regard these phenomena as the results of a febrile condition of the system, appears to me an error of no trifling magnitude, as the opinion necessarily leads

the cretaceous powder with opium, kino, &c., was ordered, and the wine was discontinued ; *vomiting* followed, and in few hours the child was a corpse.

to the adoption of a mode of treatment, which, at the best, can only aggravate and lengthen the sufferings of the patient. Dr. Cullen, whom we all must acknowledge amply deserved the celebrity which he acquired, was of opinion that these symptoms did not characterize fever. In treating on this disease, in his first lines he observes, (p. 41,) “ The attacks of this disease are seldom accompanied with any symptoms of pyrexia; and though during the course of it, both the pulse and respiration are hurried and irregular, yet these symptoms are generally so entirely removed by the remedies that quiet spasmodic affections peculiar to the disease, as to leave no ground for supposing that it had been accompanied by a proper pyrexia.” Sydenham and Ettmuller both speak of this disordered action as a *tumult* in the system requiring opiates, tonics, &c., to allay it.

It has been said, that Dr. Cullen is no

authority to appeal to when this disease is the subject of consideration ; that he was scarcely acquainted with it, &c. I admit, that his theory of this malady, like all other theories hitherto *established*, is far from satisfactory, but on all practical points his observations evince the same “master mind” which appears to have pervaded every thing which he undertook ; that he well knew the disease in its most aggravated form, is evident from his description of it, which is as follows—“ In the manner now described the disease *frequently* proceeds with great violence, till the strength of the patient is greatly and *often* suddenly weakened, while a coldness of the extremities, cold sweats, and faintings, coming on, an end is put to the patient’s life, sometimes in the course of one day,” &c. That he was acquainted with it as an epidemic, destroying thousands, like the present, is perhaps a point not quite so easily proved ; but it appears

to me, that it would scarcely add one tittle to the value of his observations, even though the fact could be most clearly established ; for it is evident, he saw sufficient of the disease to become thoroughly acquainted with its character.

As I said before, I believe that in this stage of the disease, fever is not the nature of the constitutional disturbance ; this opinion is founded on some little experience, and I feel no trifling satisfaction in being able to sanction the belief by the testimony of such authorities as Cullen, and Sydenham, &c. By the administration of stimulant and opiate medicines, combined with tonics and an appropriate diet, my experience would lead me to declare, is this tumultuous state of the system (these anomalous symptoms) alone to be overcome. If local pains lead us to apply leeches, and the general heat and rapid pulse to abstain from those remedies

which I have pointed out ; we trust to the natural powers of the constitution, not only to rally from the shock it has sustained from the disease, but also from the aggravation of symptoms occasioned by our mode of treatment : that the patient in fact recovers, (if indeed he does recover,) not in consequence, but in defiance, of our mode of practice.

C A S E S.*

A LADY of extreme delicacy of constitution, whose life has been almost one continued scene of illness and suffering, after a few days of slight indisposition, was seized (August 23) with chilliness, vomiting, and purging, &c.; convulsions soon became general over her whole frame; weak and exhausted as she was, there were mo-

* In these cases I have scarcely adverted to the appearance and colour of the motions. Dr. Tissot, no mean authority though an ancient one, in his "Avis au Peuple" declares, "The matter evacuated in this disease is either yellowish, green, brown, whiteish, or black;" and I really believe so. I am sure I have seen almost every variety of colour in the evacuations, in every different shade of the disease.

ments when her extremity of suffering seemed to give her almost supernatural power ; she would throw herself about the bed with a strength that was surprising ; her countenance, it is impossible to conceive one more expressive of agony, languor, and general distress ; her features were absolutely changed by suffering.

R Liq. Potass, m. 100. ; Sp. Ether Nit. ʒij. ; Conf. Opiat. ʒij. ; Tr. Aurant. ʒss. ; Aq. puræ, ʒiij. M. ft. Mist. Capt. 4tam. part. 2nd. quaq. hor.

Arrow root with wine or brandy, beef-tea, &c. for nourishment.

24th—Some amelioration of symptoms ; the spasms are much less severe, and my patient is this morning, after some sleep, in a state of comparative comfort. The night was passed in a frightful state of exhaustion and suffering ; the medicine was given every three or four hours through the night, and very nearly a pint of sherry was administered, not by a nurse but by a sister.

Cont. Omnia.

25th—A mitigation of symptoms.

26th.—Passed a tolerable night, but in the morning was seized with vomiting; is very faint, the skin cold; the pulse tremulous; nauseates the alkaline medicine. Bowels moved twice in the night. The nourishment to be continued, and ordered the following medicines.

R Sulph. Quin. gr. i.; Amm. Carb. gr. iij.; Pil. Sap. c. opio. gr. iij.; M. ft. pil. ij. 2nd quaq. hor. Capiend.*

R Amm. Carb. ʒj.; Sp. Ether. S.c. ʒss.; M. Card. c. ʒi.; Aq. puræ ʒivss.; M. ft. Mist. Cap. Cj. Mag. sæpe. urg. lang.

10 o'clock P. M.—Is considerably better; the vomiting has ceased; the skin warm: directed the pills to be continued every six hours; the nourishment as usual, &c.

Until the 30th of Sept. the same plan was pursued with every possible improvement. I thought she was as rapidly recovering as could be expected. An attack more resembling dysen-

* I scarcely know what apology to offer to the chemist, but to the practitioner I would strongly recommend this form of medicine.

tery than any other form of disease has occurred, the evacuations have been frequent with tenesmus to a frightful degree. She is now exhausted, breathing irregularly ; pulse intermitting. The following pills were ordered ; the ammonia mixture to be given freely.

R Cupri. Sulph. gr. $\frac{1}{4}$; Pil. Sap. c. Opio. gr. iij. M. ft. pil. ; 2nd. quaq. hor. cap.

10 P. M.—Is considerably better ; the bowels have been moved twice with much distress, &c. ; to continue the pills every four hours.

14th.—Is much better ; bowels quite quiet ; slept in the night, and takes a tolerable quantity of nourishment.

Cont. Omnia.

19th.—Up to this day, the same medicines have been continued ; there is every possible improvement ; she is now slowly recovering, though she cannot yet rise from her bed, and occasionally feels as though she was sinking through it.

CASE II.

A SERVANT girl on her return from church in the afternoon, was seized with chilliness, vomiting, and purging ; her master gave her ten drops of laudanum in brandy and water, which was returned instantly ; the dose was repeated, and the same effect followed. I saw her about eight o'clock ; she was then livid in appearance, cold, pulse scarcely to be felt, trembling from head to foot, vomiting, and appeared to be in torture every where from the violence of the spasms. I administered the following medicine.

R Liq. Potass ʒj. ; Conf. Opiat. ʒj. ; Th. Card. c. ʒij. ; Aq. puræ, ʒiss. M. ft. Mist. Cap. dim. stat. et post hor. unam repet.

10 o'clock P. M.—Has vomited twice since my last visit, but since the last dose of medicine not at all ; the spasms are abated, the skin warm, the pulse very quick, the bowels have been moved once, a perfectly liquid dirty-looking evacuation.

I directed brandy and arrow root to be given during the night, and a table-spoonful of the following mixture every half hour.

R Amm. Carb. ℥j.; Conf. Arom. ʒj.; Conf. Opiat. ℥ij.; Th. Card. c. ʒss.; Aq. puræ, ʒv. M. ft. Mist. &c.

Monday morning.—Has had some sleep; vomited once during the night; the convulsions have subsided; the skin is intensely hot; pulse quick; violent pain in the head; hurried breathing. She has taken nearly the whole of the mixture, and brandy and arrow root twice. This I have ordered to be continued. Beef-tea also.

R Liq. Potass. m. xxv.; Sp. Ether. m. ʒss.; Conf. Opiat. gr. x.; Tr. Aurant. ʒs.; Aq. puræ ʒiss. M. ft. haust 4tis horis sum.

Tuesday.—Is now free from pain; pulse 78; slept almost the whole night: the tongue moist and tolerably clean, but has no sense of taste, though she takes her food without repugnance; has passed urine this morning for the first time since Sunday, which was dark coloured and

scanty. I added a drachm of Huxam's tincture of bark to each dose of her medicine.

Wednesday.—Is free from complaint, but is unable to sit up from extreme weakness; the bowels not relieved yesterday; animal food allowed.

Saturday.—Is free from complaint but weak; has been assisting in the work of the house.

CASE III.

A LADY, while recovering from the distressing effects which the extensive formation of matter near the rectum produced, was seized on the 14th of September with vomiting, purging, great faintness, general cramps, more particularly of the abdomen. I found her (two hours from the commencement of the attack) scarcely able to raise her head from the pillow; so prostrate were her powers, you might almost have imagined her a corpse, were it not for the frequent

retchings, yet she brought scarcely any thing from her stomach; their effects were more dreadful than any thing I had ever witnessed; they appeared like one short convulsive throe through the whole intestinal canal, leaving her nearly lifeless. The following medicine I had with me, and administered.

R Liq. Potass. ʒij; Conf. Opiat. ʒj.; Tr. Card. c.;
 Aur. aa. ʒss.; Aq. puræ. ʒiiss. M. f. Mist. Capt.
 4tam. part 2nd quaque hor.

10 o'clock P. M.—There has been no vomiting since I saw her; has taken all the medicine; the tongue is furred and dry; the pulse rapid; the skin warm; great headache; general pains over the whole body. Gruel and brandy, with beef-tea for nourishment.

R Amm. Carb. qr. xvj.; Conf. Opiat. ʒj.; Sp.
 Ether p. ʒij; Tr. Card. c. ʒss.; Aur. ʒss.; Aq.
 puræ. ʒv. M. f. Mist. capt. 4tam. part 4ts. horis.

Sept. 15th.—Has slept during the night; has vomited once; bowels twice moved; is in every

respect better ; but such are her sensations, she cannot believe in the possibility of her recovery.

R Liq. Potass m. 120. ; Tr. Cina. c. \bar{z} ss. ; Conf. Opiat. \bar{z} j. ; Tr. Card. c. \bar{z} ss. aq. puræ, \bar{z} v. M. f. Mist. Cap. 4tam. part. 4ts. horis.

Sept. 20.—I do not think it necessary to detail the progress made in the intermediate days. She is now convalescent, but unable to sit up. No alteration has been made in the form of medicine prescribed on the 15th, and the diet has been nourishing.

CASE IV.

A LADY advanced in pregnancy, was attacked in August 14th, 1832, with sickness, purging, and sudden cramps in her limbs. When I saw her, she was cold, trembling ; her skin bedewed with a perspiration, which, on touching it, produced the same sensation as though the surface

had been smeared with soap ; her pulse was distinct, but very feeble ; her countenance was livid.

R Liq. Potass. ʒj. ; Conf. Opiat. ʒj. ; Tr. Card. c. ʒij. ; Aq. puræ ʒss. M. f. Mist. Capt. dim. stat. et post. hor. rapet.

Two or three table-spoonsful of brandy and water were directed to be given occasionally.

10 o'clock P.M.—Has recovered from the state of collapse ; the vomiting has ceased ; the bowels have been moved once ; complains of great oppression about the chest, and violent headache ; tongue coated ; pulse very quick. Three table-spoonsful of brandy, (undiluted,) were by a misunderstanding of the nurse given to her ; and she remarked, “ make the next brandy and water a little stronger, I may have it pretty good ;” so paralyzed were the nerves of her tongue and stomach.

R Amm. Carb. ʒj. ; Conf. Arom. ʒj. ; Conf. Opiat. ʒj. ; Tr. Card. c. ʒss. ; Aq. puræ ʒiiiiss. M. f. Mist. Capt. 4tam. part 4ts. horis.

Beef-tea with brandy or wine in gruel or arrow-root, for nourishment.

Aug. 15.—Has passed a tolerable night ; some sleep ; tongue moist, and much cleaner ; pulse more quiet ; the head and chest greatly relieved ; bowels a little relaxed.

Cont. Omnia.

Sept. 1.—The same plan has been pursued to this day ; her diet has been gradually increased ; she is convalescent but weak.

CASE V.

A GENTLEMAN, not a very distant neighbour of mine, (though originally far north,) rose very uncomfortable early one morning, and in a few seconds was nearly lifeless on the floor, vomiting and purging. Nothing could have been (I judge from the description given me, corroborated by the state in which I found him) more deplorable

than his condition. With great presence of mind, (and the mind in these awful seizures seldom fails us,) he soon asked for his cholera mixture, took in a short time two doses, and finding himself a little puzzled, sent to me about nine o'clock. His attack had been very formidable, but his cholera mixture, fortunately for him, was a composition of laudanum in moderate doses and some essential oil. I need not detail his symptoms. I ordered the following medicine. *Barley-broth*, with gruel and brandy, &c. for nourishment.

R Liq. Potass. m. 120 : Conf. Opiat. ʒij. ; Tr. Card.
c. ʒss. ; Aur. ʒss. ; Aq. puræ, ʒivss. M. f. Mist.
Cap. 4tam. part. 4ts. horis.

This plan was continued until the fourth day ; when I saw him on that day, he had made an excellent dinner, and reported himself quite well ; but his pulse was extremely feeble and rapid. I advised him to continue in bed, but thinking my advice, I believe, in every way professional, for he is one who looks closely into the “ deeds of men,” he got up, and in a very short time fainted

in his chair, with some unpleasant consequences. He returned to bed, and in a few days, without any change in his plan of treatment, he was in his usual state of health.

CASE VI.

EXTRACTED FROM THE MEDICAL GAZETTE,
JUNE 1832.

To the Editor of the London Medical Gazette.

SIR,

I SHOULD feel greatly obliged if you would insert the accompanying case of cholera in the Medical Gazette at your earliest convenience.

Your obedient servant,

HENRY GEORGE.

Phillimore Place,
Kensington.

“ The change which a great and sudden depression of nervous energy works in the quantity and quality of

the secretion, has undoubtedly a share in provoking the act of vomiting.

“Nausea is not only an ordinary consequence, but a never-failing cause of nervous depression.—*Traver's Inquiry, &c.*

Sarah Groom, aged 42, the mother of twelve children, was attacked with slight diarrhœa on the morning of the 15th of June. On the evening of that day, some aromatic and opiate confection, with sal volatile, were administered.

16th.—Has been vomiting incessantly through the night a colourless fluid; has had several motions in the course of the night, resembling water-gruel; is now dreadfully exhausted; eyes sunk in their sockets; voice scarcely audible; skin, particularly of the hands and face, of a leaden hue, cold and damp; violent cramps in the legs; tongue cold; great oppression about the præcordia; if asked where she feels most pain, constantly refers to that region; has made no water for the last twenty-four hours. A small dose of calomel and opium was given (calom. gr. iss. opium, gr. $\frac{1}{4}$.) I saw her for the first time about ten o'clock, A. M. two hours after

the administration of the calomel; her general appearance was then nearly as above described, with great restlessness; frequent and heavy sighing. I ordered the following medicine to be taken immediately:—

Liq. Potass. ʒj.; Aq. Puræ. ʒx.; M. ft. haust. statim.

She vomited soon after its exhibition. I mixed two drachms of the liquor potassæ with about twelve of water, and directed a tea-spoonful to be given, every five minutes.

1 o'clock, P. M.—Has had no vomiting since I last saw her; has taken all the medicine, though previous to its exhibition the stomach would not retain the smallest quantity of cold water, which was, and is still, constantly prayed for; has slept a little. I mixed ʒj. of liq. potass in ʒiiss. of water, and directed a tea-spoonful to be given every ten or fifteen minutes, but oftener should the vomiting return.

9 o'clock, P. M.—Scarcely any vomiting through the day; has taken all the medicine; the stage

of collapse much less distinctly marked. Within the last hour the stomach has been rather more irritable; she is disgusted with the taste of the alkali; no urine has been passed.

R Ammon. Carbon. gr. iv.; Pulv. Rhæi. gr. iss.;
Pulv. Opii. gr. $\frac{1}{6}$. M. ft. pilul. 2nd. quâque hor.
capiend.

17th.—Vomited occasionally in the night, but slept a good deal; skin warm; pulse steady, weak, and rather quick; tongue dry, and covered with a brown crust; no urine has been passed; the catheter was introduced, and the smallest quantity of high-coloured urine drawn off. The gentleman who introduced the instrument thought the bladder felt contracted; she still complains bitterly of oppression of the præcordia: has had a motion, which is perfectly healthy in appearance, and very foetid.

R Sulph. Quin. gr. j.; Ammon. Carbon. gr. iv.;
Pulv. Rhæi. gr. j. M. ft. pil. 4ta. quâque hor.
capiend.

9 o'clock, P.M.—Has passed a very comfort-

able day ; very little vomiting ; has taken tea, barley-water, jelly, and milk ; no urine has been passed.

Contin. Pilul.

18th.—Passed a very comfortable night ; is a little sick this morning, and has vomited what is apparently dark green bile ; but in every respect is much better ; no urine has been passed.

R Hyd. Sub. gr. ij. ; Ext. Coloc. c. gr. viij. ; Pulv. Opii. gr. $\frac{1}{4}$. ; Gum Camphor gr. iij. M. ft. pil. ij. stat.

Contin. pilul. ton.

9 o'clock P.M.—No relief from the bowels ; no sickness : skin soft, warm, and moist every where ; pulse quick, about 100, soft ; tongue moist, but covered with a brown fur ; expresses herself as feeling very comfortable ; no urine has been passed.

Contin. pilul. ton.

19th.—Is very comfortable this morning ; passed about six ounces of darkish coloured

urine in the night ; no relief from the bowels ; an injection was given, which brought away fæculent matter, in quantity sufficient, containing plenty of bile.

Contin. pilul. ton.

9 o'clock, P.M.—Has passed a very comfortable day ; has made more than a pint of very healthy urine ; has taken beef-tea, &c.

Contin. pilul. ton.

20th.—Going on well ; the catamenia appeared in the night.

9 o'clock, P.M.—Has been in much pain in the loins, and lower part of the abdomen and the thighs ; skin rather hot ; pulse very quick ; restless ; no relief from the bowels.

R Pulv. Rhæi, gr. xii. ; Conf. Opiat. gr. x. ; Tr. Card. c. ʒj. ; Aq. Menth. Pulv. Ex. M. ft. haust. stat.

21st.—No relief from the bowels ; suffered much from pain in the night ; thinks it possible she may be miscarrying.

9 o'clock, P.M.—All uterine irritation has ceased ; pulse 80 ; tongue moist : bowels slightly moved.

R Liq. Potass, mlxxx. ; Tr. Aurant. ℥ss. ; Liq. Opii. sed. gtts. xij. ; Aq. Puræ. ℥iiiss. M. ft. Mist. ; Capt. 4tam post 6tis horis.

22nd.—Going on very well, &c.

I could detail very many other cases, but the repetition would be tedious, for they resemble each other so perfectly in feature and management, that to discover any thing but shades of difference would require the discrimination even of Hudibras,

“ Who could distinguish and divide
A hair 'twixt south and south-west side.”

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